

Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for paragraph 109 in the published application (paragraph at page 29, lines 17-31 in the application as filed):

[0109] A coating formulation for roofing granules comprising of 32.5 g sodium silicate (Oxychem grade 42), 20.1 g of kaolin slurry (Royale slurry from Unimin Corp.), and 3.6 g of water was prepared in a container by mixing the ingredients using a mechanical stirrer at 300 rpm under low shear conditions. The coating composition had an off-white color and was evaluated by drawdown method using a 10 mil drawdown bar (#SAR-5306 from BYK Gardner Instruments) on a drawdown paper (Form 105C from Leneta Co.). The coating had a color reading of $L^*=86.53$, $a^*=0.41$, and $b^*=16.24$, as measured using a HunterLab calorimeter, and a solar reflectance of 15% as measured by a portable solar reflectometer (Device & Service Instrument) against a black background. 2.0 g of alumina powder with a particle size of 0.3 mm (Op-Alumina powder from Struers) was added to the same coating formulation. The resulting coating composition was evaluated by using the same drawdown method. The addition of alumina powder was found to significantly increase the coating solar reflectance to 24%, while keeping the color reading about the same at $L^*=86.25$, $a^*[[b^*]]=0.56$, and $b^*[[a^*]]=16.04$.